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EXAMINER

PHAN, RAYMOND NGAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2181

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Applicati n N .

09/751,839

Applicant(s)

WU ET AL.

Examin r

Raymond Phan

Art Unit

2181

-- The MAILING DATE of this communicati n appears on the cover sheet with the c rrespondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ .
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_ .
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_ .
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_ .
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_ .

### **Part III DETAILED ACTION**

#### ***Notice to Applicant(s)***

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-27 are pending.
2. The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 2181.

#### ***Specification***

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

5. Claims 1, 6-7, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Papa et al. (US No. 6,418,492).

In regard to claims 1, 7, Papa et al. disclose a network device 92A including slots for a plurality of hot-swappable physical interface cards, comprising an interface designed to receive the interface cards (i.e. NIC), each interface card designed to receive information using at least one of the plurality of network interface standards (see figure 1, col. 5, lines 22-45); a plurality of power supply lines for supply power from the network device to the interface card through the interface (see figure 1, col. 5, lines 22-45); an on/off power control circuit (i.e. quick switch) connected to the plurality of power supply lines to control power supplied to the power supply lines (see figure 1, col. 5, lines 22-45); and a controller connected to the on/off power control circuit, in response to detecting the presence of the interface card in the interface instructing the on/off power control circuit to turn on the plurality of power supply lines and to ramp the power supplied to each one of the turned on power supply lines (see col. 6, lines 4-65).

In regard to claim 6, Papa et al. disclose the power control circuit connected to the controller and to each of the plurality of power supply lines for monitoring signaling the controller when the power supplied to each of the power supply lines stabilized (see col. 23, line 65 through col. 24, line 15).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-3, 8, 10, 12-13, 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papa et al. in view of Evoy (US NO.6,062,480).

In regard to claims 2, 12, 18, Papa et al. teach the claimed subject matter as discussed above except the teaching of wherein the controller detects the presence of interface card in the interface by detecting an electrical connection with a predetermined pin the in the interface card. However Evoy discloses wherein the controller detects the presence of PCMCIA card in the interface by detecting an electrical connection with a predetermined pin the in the card (see col. 2, lines 33-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Evoy within the system of Papa et al. because it would protect the card in case of power surge or instability.

In regard to claims 3, 13, 19, Envoy discloses wherein the predetermined pin in the card is designed to be last pin to come into contact with the interface.

In regard to claim 8, even though the teachings of Papa et al or Evoy do not specifically disclose the voltages levels in the power supply lines, however one skilled in the art would have understood that they can choose to implement the specific voltage levels to the power supply lines to satisfy the installed cards requirements.

In regard to claim 10, even though the teachings of Papa et al or Evoy do not specifically disclose network device as the router, however one skilled in the art would have understood that they can choose to have the device to facilitate the network card.

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8. Claims 4-5, 9, 15-16, 20-21, 24-25, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papa et al. in view of Wallach et al. (US No. 6,170,028).

In regard to claims 4, 15, Papa et al. teach the claimed subject matter as discussed above except the teaching of receiving the packets of information from the interface card over the high speed bus. However Wallach et al. disclose the network adapter (i.e. NIC) being able to receive the packet of information over the high speed bus (see col. 9, lines 27-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Wallach et al. within the system of Papa et al. because it would reduce the downtime of servers in network environment.

In regard to claim 5, Wallach et al. disclose the memory connected to the packet I/O manager for storing packet received by the packet I/O manager (see col. 9, lines 12-45).

In regard to claims 9, 16, 20, 24, Wallach et al. disclose the interface card received information from at least ATM or Ethernet connection (see col. 6, lines 56-67).

In regard to claims 21, Papa et al. disclose a network device 92A including slots for a plurality of hot-swappable physical interface cards, comprising an interface designed to receive the interface cards (i.e. NIC), each interface card designed to receive information using at least one of the plurality of network interface standards (see figure 1, col. 5, lines 22-45); a plurality of power supply lines for supply power from the network device to the interface card through the interface (see figure 1, col. 5, lines 22-45); an on/off power control circuit (i.e. quick switch) connected to the plurality of power supply lines to control power

controller connected to the on/off power control circuit, in response to detecting the presence of the interface card in the interface instructing the on/off power control circuit to turn on the plurality of power supply lines and to ramp the power supplied to each one of the turned on power supply lines (see col. 6, lines 4-65). But Papa et al. do not specifically disclose the high speed bus for communicating packet of information with the network device. However Wallach et al. disclose the network adapter (i.e. NIC) being able to receive the packet of information over the high speed bus (see col. 9, lines 27-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Wallach et al. within the system of Papa et al. because it would reduce the downtime of servers in network environment

In regard to claim 25, even though the teachings of Papa et al or Wallach et al. do not specifically disclose the voltages levels in the power supply lines, however one skilled in the art would have understood that they can choose to implement the specific voltage levels to the power supply lines to satisfy the installed cards requirements.

In regard to claim 27, even though the teachings of Papa et al or Wallach et al. do not specifically disclose network device as the router, however one skilled in the art would have understood that they can choose to have the device to facilitate the network card.

9. Claims 11, 14, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papa et al.

In regard to claims 11, 17, Papa et al. disclose a network device 92A including slots for a plurality of hot-swappable physical interface cards,

comprising an interface designed to receive the interface cards (i.e. NIC), each interface card designed to receive information using at least one of the plurality of network interface standards (see figure 1, col. 5, lines 22-45); a plurality of power supply lines for supply power from the network device to the interface card through the interface (see figure 1, col. 5, lines 22-45); an on/off power control circuit (i.e. quick switch) connected to the plurality of power supply lines to control power supplied to the power supply lines (see figure 1, col. 5, lines 22-45); and a controller connected to the on/off power control circuit, in response to detecting the presence of the interface card in the interface instructing the on/off power control circuit to turn on the plurality of power supply lines and to ramp the power supplied to each one of the turned on power supply lines (see col. 6, lines 4-65). Even though the teachings of Papa et al do not specifically disclose network device 92A as the router, however one skilled in the art would have understood that they can choose to have the device to facilitate the network cards.

In regard to claim 14, Papa et al. disclose the power control circuit connected to the controller and to each of the plurality of power supply lines for monitoring signaling the controller when the power supplied to each of the power supply lines stabilized (see col. 23, line 65 through col. 24, line 15).

10. Claims 22-23, 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papa et al. in view of Wallach et al. further in view of Evoy.

In regard to claim 22, Papa et al. and Wallach et al. teach the claimed subject matter as discussed above except the teaching of wherein the controller detects the presence of interface card in the interface by detecting an electrical connection



with a predetermined pin the in the interface card. However Envoy discloses wherein the controller detects the presence of PCMCIA card in the interface by detecting an electrical connection with a predetermined pin the in the card (see col. 2, lines 33-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Envoy within the system of Papa et al. and Wallach et al. because it would protect the card in case of power surge or instability.

In regard to claim 23, Envoy discloses wherein the predetermined pin in the card is designed to be last pin to come into contact with the interface.

In regard to claim 26, Envoy discloses wherein the predetermined pin in the card is designed to be last pin to come into contact with the interface.

### ***Conclusion***

11. All claims are rejected.

12. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**Alston et al. (US No. 6,327,635)** disclose an add-on card with automatic bus power line selection circuit.

**Ramamurthy et al. (US No. 6,758,171)** disclose an apparatus and method for reading back socket power status information.

**Richter et al. (US No. 6,149,319)** disclose a computer system host adapter for controlling signal levels to peripheral cards.

**Cox et al. (US No. 6,125,418)** disclose a method and apparatus for enabling a computer user to convert a computer to an intelligent I/O system.

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13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Raymond Phan, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2756. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30AM- 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Primary, Paul Myers can be reached on (703) 305-9656 or via e-mail addressed to paul.myers@uspto.gov. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 746-7239.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [raymond.phan@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

RP

**Raymond Phan**  
6/28/03



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